

WATER MATTERS

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Read about how the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project will support native species and plants, reconnect with our cultural heritage, and ensure water sustainability.

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**TUCSON
WATER**

A proud part of the City of Tucson



The Santa Cruz River Heritage Project

**The Santa Cruz River
has played a central role
in the long history of this**

region, sustaining communities with reliable spots of surface water for thousands of years. In the early 20th century, groundwater pumping for agriculture and urban growth put extreme stresses on the river, eventually leaving the riverbed in Tucson completely dry for most of the year—but that is about to change!

This June, Tucson Water will launch the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project,

reintroducing a ribbon of flowing water to an area just south of A Mountain and downtown Tucson. Each day, up to 2.8 million gallons of reclaimed water (please see sidebar— What is Recycled and Reclaimed Water?) will be released into the Santa Cruz, reviving a piece of the river's former beauty and vitality with a flow that is expected to travel more than a mile before soaking into the ground. Over time, bike riders, joggers, walkers, and equestrians along the downtown section of "The Loop" trail will see improved river conditions and flowing water to admire. This project will also complement historical and cultural community projects in the area such as Mission Garden, and support the return of native plant species and endangered wildlife.

CALL

Public Information
English & Español:
(520) 791-4331

CLICK

**tucsonaz.gov/
water**

SOCIAL**TDD**

(520) 791-2639

WATCH



What is Recycled and Reclaimed Water?

Advanced technology makes it possible for communities to use water more than once—recycling it—before passing it back into the natural water cycle. Recycled water includes gray water, which is relatively clean wastewater collected from baths, sinks, and clothes-washing machines; reclaimed water, which is specially treated wastewater for applications such as irrigation, dust control, firefighting, and industrial uses; and stormwater.

To conserve drinking water, Tucson Water has provided reclaimed water to irrigate parks, schools, golf courses, and neighborhood landscapes since 1984. It is an important water resource and Tucson Water maintains more than 160 miles of pipe and 15 million gallons of surface storage in the reclaimed water system. Today, reclaimed water represents about 10 percent of our water resources.

For more information about reclaimed water in our community please visit tucsonaz.gov/water/what-is-reclaimed-water.

The benefits of the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project go far beyond the surface.

The project is an excellent example of how Tucson Water continues to ensure reliable water resources for our community in innovative ways. Recycling wastewater is one of Tucson's most important water conservation tools. Currently, only about half of Tucson's reclaimed water is used by customers. The excess is discharged into the Santa Cruz River farther downstream, near the city's northwestern edge. The location of that discharge causes Tucson Water to lose physical and legal control of this valuable resource as it continues to flow north and out of our water system. The Santa Cruz River Heritage Project will use existing infrastructure to bring a portion of that reclaimed water to a location farther south, where it will flow in the riverbed and percolate through the ground to enter the aquifer. Once in the aquifer this water is stored for later use, effectively "keeping it local."

The return of a perennial water flow near the heart of the city

creates an opportunity to reconnect with our cultural heritage, improve the environment, and safeguard a sustainable water future for us all. It's amazing what can happen when you just add water!

You can learn more about the Santa Cruz River Heritage Project at tucsonaz.gov/water/SCRHP.



Recycle Water at Home

YOU CAN RECYCLE THESE TYPES OF WATER AT HOME TO IRRIGATE PLANTS, CONSERVE DRINKING WATER, AND SAVE MONEY.



Bathtub water



Shower water



Handwashing sink water



Rainwater



Clothes-washer water



Go to tucsonaz.gov/water/residential-rebates to learn how-to's and more about conservation, rebates, and incentives.

CITY OF TUCSON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Recycling Plastics Made Easy

In a recent study by the Grocery Manufacturers Association, 92% of respondents said they are not sure about what they should put into the recycling bin – especially when it comes to plastics.

Tip: You don't have to figure out a bunch of symbols imprinted on plastics to recycle right!



In Tucson, there are 4 types of plastic containers to recycle:

1. Plastic bottles
2. Plastic jugs
3. Yogurt-type containers
4. Dairy tubs & containers



Always make sure these plastic recyclables are empty and clean or they will ruin other recyclables.

Plastic bags, film plastic and Styrofoam go in trash.

PIMA COUNTY WASTEWATER RECLAMATION

Where There is Heat,
There are Cockroaches?

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department has a vector control program to reduce the number of cockroaches in our sanitary sewer system. Manholes are treated with an insecticide mixed into a latex paint and are spray-painted on the circumference inside the entire manhole every two years.

If you notice sewer cockroaches, please call us at **(520) 724-3401** and leave your name, address, and phone number on our automated voice messaging system.

For more information about our vector control program visit: www.pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation



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WASTEWATER RECLAMATION

Your utilities services statement includes fees for your water, environmental services, and wastewater.

Environmental Services (ES) (520) 791-3171 or visit tucsonaz.gov/environmental-services

Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) (520) 724-6609 or visit pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation